



Public Health Advisory Council Meeting

MEETING MINUTES – July 22nd, 2020 @ 2:00 pm

Health Department Board Room, 2nd floor via Zoom
2030 Tecumseh Road
Manhattan, KS 66502

In attendance: Julie Gibbs, Shelley Hays, Jane Freyenberger, Robbin Cole, Kate Kukanich, Heather Richey, Jennifer Miller, Jan Scheideman, Brevia Spencer, Leslie Campbell, Jenny Yuen, Ed Kalas *Please see attached sign in sheet.*

1. Welcome and Sign In
 - a. Julie called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm

Director's Report-COVID 19 Update

As of today, July 22, Riley County now has a total of 410 confirmed positives. Out of those, 118 are considered active cases, and we have had 289 recover. We currently have 4 positive patients in the hospital at this time. Currently we have 185 tests pending and we have had a total of 3,908 negative tests in the county so far.

We are still encouraging those with symptoms to call our screening line at 785-323-6400. This will be available on the weekdays from 8 am until 5 PM. We are averaging about 50 calls a day and that is actually down a bit from a few weeks ago when we were averaging about 70 calls a day. We do have nurses answering those calls so if you don't get an answer the first time, we encourage you to call back as they're probably on the other line! Anyone with general questions or concerns can email us at rileycountycovid19@gmail.com. We do get about 25-30 emails and calls in a day. So again, have patience with us as we do try hard to get back to you within the hour, but that depends on the day!

Konza United Way has a lot of masks they are able to give out for free. They are located at Colony Square on Poyntz Avenue, Suite 245 and you can pick those up between the hours of noon and 3 on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

We have regular meetings with the covid19 clinical task force. We have formed a sub-committee made up of some physicians from pediatrics and school nurses as well as Andrew from the HD to discuss protocols going forward for children, teachers and staff at the schools. This will be an ongoing discussion.

The command staff of the EOC meets daily and we do have regional EOC briefings once a week to make sure we are all aware of what is happening in the region. We did issue Order #15, which went into effect on Monday. In Order #15, we stayed at 50 for our mass gathering size and we kept the restrictions for the restaurants and bars. We added language about recommended masks in all of RC, as well as hand hygiene and we will add some language about requiring social distancing. We know that masks certainly work but we cannot forget social distancing so we want to make that very clear in our order. This current order does require restaurants and bars to screen employees before the start of every shift. We have designated staff to

make visits to the restaurants and bars to make sure they're on top of this and to see if they have any questions about safeguards in their business.

We have also designated staff to assist businesses with what happens if they have employees who test positive and walk them through that process.

As far as planning for the future, we have a draft of Order #16 out to our commissioners and Jason Smith and Bob Copple who are leading our recovery task force for feedback. We are keeping all current restrictions in place but are wanting to be even stricter with bars especially

We do have a plan in place for an ACS, or an Alternate Care Site, which we are working to finalize an agreement right now.

Questions asked by Robbin and Kate after Director's update:

Question: When will we see a reduction in cases due to the face mask ordinance?

Answer: It usually takes two weeks, however, there is really no way to connect the mask ordinance to the reduction of cases compared to other public health interventions, such as Order #15 or an increase in social distancing compliance, etc. There was no plan to collect data about the ordinance so there are no benchmarks from which to judge it. Also, there is no way of knowing which potential cases from the public were pre-symptomatic to be able to connect them to close contacts or to know what percentage of mask wearers who had no symptoms but could still spread the virus exists in Manhattan.

Question: What do you think the impact will be of the State School Board vote?

Answer: Not sure yet, just found out. Thinks USD 383 is well prepared but more time would be better. Robbin asked if USD 383 had already voted to delay their start. No one else had heard that but someone said that there would be an emergency meeting tonight.

Question: Is CARES paying for the contact tracers?

Answer: Yes

Question: Does the close contact guidance assume individuals are wearing a face mask?

Answer: No, there is no distinction between wearing a mask and not wearing one. There was some talk about the definitions of case, contact, and close contact.

Question: Is there anything the PHAC should do to support efforts?

Answer: Help spread the message. Wear a mask, stay six feet apart, and wash hands.

Question: What about after school programs?

Answer: There are several people still working on the plan. Heather has a call with Trent at BGC on Thursday. It is believed the focus will be on stable groups.

Question: With all the focus on COVID, what about flu vaccination this year?

Answer: We are currently working on this. The date for Oktfluberfest is still set as October 22. There will probably be no pumpkins this year. It was suggested making it a fun masked event. It was suggested it might be drive thru. More info will come.

Question: How do you feel about the status of contact tracing?

Answer: We just hired 21 contact tracers. Some are part time. We also have an MOU in place with Lafene so they will perform the contact tracing for the KSU students.

Question: Are people cooperative with the contact tracing process?

Answer: People are usually cooperative though sometimes they are forgetful. If they are symptomatic (not feeling well), it might take several calls before we get all the relevant information from them. All the contact tracers are in the same room at the EOC (with proper distancing) so they work well together. They have white boards showing hot spots around the area.

Question: Where are the hot spots?

Answer: Mostly in the Manhattan area. Since it's community spread, you should act like it's everywhere and take proper precautions.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

Child Care Licensing: They are doing initial inspections and high risk complaints. Orientations are over the phone.

WIC: Doing remote appointments, mostly by phone. Numbers are steady. The Ft Riley office is open so there is contact with clients there. It is predicted there will be a high number of deliveries there in August. The Ft Riley office does have restrictions. They cannot travel over 150 miles or stay overnight. If they do, they have to stay away from Ft Riley for seven days. Jane is retiring September 1.

Raising Riley: Jan met with IRIS. They are onboarding the KanCare Omnibus office. They have had a steady caseload. They did not do Spring assessments but will be starting the Fall assessments August 1. The older children will come to the office. They will see one family per day and do proper cleaning and sanitizing afterwards. Children aged 0-3 assessments will be done by Zoom. They will also begin doing Provider Observations with the facilitator going to the provider location in appropriate PPE. There is one staff doing contact tracing. Storytime visits and Love and Logic are currently being conducted over Zoom.

Clinic: EPI nurse is working daily at EOC entering info into EpiTrax, the State's disease surveillance system. Family planning services and STI are busy. They have started doing immunizations. They started with 0-2 yr. catchup and will now start back to school immunizations.

MCH: They have been seeing clients since April/May. They screen by phone, nurse goes to their vehicle and takes temperature, and they have the appointment. They still have phone appointments. Newborn appointments have been done remotely with the visitor giving the information by phone and having contactless delivery of the incentive. They have been having BaM (Becoming a Mom) classes by Zoom. These classes have had great participation and will likely continue in the future. Breva asked the PHAC for recruitment ideas for MCH.

Health Education: The meeting was supposed to be the first on YouTube. However, it is believed it did not work due to a technical glitch. Ed established a PHAC letterhead/logo to set the PHAC apart from the RCHD. He informed/showed everyone the PHAB plaque. He has developed a COVID info graph and will be a liaison for businesses. This includes answering their questions and checking the required employee screening logs.

Meeting adjourned at 2:57pm

Next Meeting: **August 26th, 2020 @ 4:00pm**